

John J. Buchanan who is retiring after serving as Alderman for the 10th Ward in the City of Chicago for over 20 years.

Alderman Buchanan is a life-long resident and public servant of the 10th Ward. Alderman Buchanan attended St. Patrick's Grammar School and St. Francis de Sales High School, where he graduated as class Valedictorian. The only time Alderman Buchanan left the community was during his service in the U.S. Navy. After his service to our country, Alderman Buchanan returned to the 10th Ward and married his high school sweetheart, Lorraine Halbe. Alderman Buchanan and his wife have two children and five grandchildren.

Alderman Buchanan's knowledge of business and industry comes from his richly diverse work background. At the age of 13, he was already working after school at Gassman's, a well-known men's store on Commerical Avenue. His work experiences include positions at the Aluminum Company of America, the U.S. Post Office and the Chicago Board of Education. Alderman Buchanan is also a licensed Stationary Engineer and has both a real estate broker's license and an insurance broker's license. It is probably Alderman Buchanan's experience as an insurance salesman that opened doors to his deeper understanding of the needs of the community. This path eventually led the Alderman to a life in the public arena.

Alderman Buchanan was first elected to office in 1963 and served the community until 1971. From 1972 until 1977, he served as a Coordinator of Economic Development for the Chicago Mayor's Office. While in this position, he successfully instituted programs for the retention and attraction of new business and industry. In 1991, Alderman Buchanan was once again elected to serve as Alderman of the 10th Ward in the City of Chicago. His City Council Committee memberships included Aviation; Budget and Government Relations; Rules and Ethics; Economic and Capital Development; Finance, Human Relations; Police and Fire.

In honor of Alderman Buchanan's distinguished career, I have introduced federal legislation to change the name of the Hegewish Post Office to John J. Buchanan U.S. Post Office. I am also pleased to report that at my request, every member of the Illinois Congressional Delegation has agreed to support this legislation.

My Speaker, I urge this body to identify and recognize others in their own districts whose careers and actions have so greatly benefited and strengthened America's communities.

A TRIBUTE TO BROOKLYN PRIDE

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 1999

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to invite my colleagues to pay tribute to Brooklyn Pride on the occasion of its Spring Gala.

This event is not only a festive happening, it is a chance for all of us to celebrate and pay tribute to a group of individuals who embody the spirit of independence and community activism. This year's honorees truly represent the best of what our community has to offer.

Joo-Hyun Kang is the Executive Director of the Audre Lorde Project. Before coming to the

Audre Lorde Project, Joo-Hyun was the Program Coordinator for Women's Rights at the Women's Environment and Development Organization, an international women's organization founded by the late Bella Abzug. She has been active in various struggles for justice, particularly those addressing concerns related to women of color and to the gay and lesbian community.

Regina Shavers is the Program Director and founding Board member of the Griot Circle, the only Senior Center committed to affirming the lives of seniors in the gay and lesbian community. She is currently employed by the New York City Department of Health's HIV Training Institute as a training supervisor and serves as a Literacy Tutor at the Bedford Learning Center.

Continuing her family's tradition of community activism, Regina became an advocate for workers' rights while working for the New York City Police Department as a supervisor in their Communications Division Training Unit. Regina has also served as the Co-Chair of DC 37's Lesbian and Gay Issues Committee and served on the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Lesbian and Gay Rights National Advisory Board. An active member of Brooklyn Pride, Regina was an integral member of the city-wide coalition that negotiated with the City of New York to insure Domestic Partner benefits for all New York City employees.

Alan Fleishman is a lifelong Brooklyn resident who has lived in Park Slope for the last fifteen years. He has been an organizer in the lesbian and gay community and has served as the President of the Lambda Independent Democrats and the Gay Friends and Neighbors. Alan currently advises New York City Comptroller Hevesi on matters concerning the lesbian and gay community as well as on HIV/AIDS issues and concerns. Mr. Fleishman has been honored by the Central Brooklyn Independent Democrats, the Paul Robeson Independent Democrats and the Brooklyn AIDS Task Force for his organizing work in Brooklyn.

All of today's honorees have long been known as innovators and beacons of good will to all those with whom they come into contact. Through their dedicated efforts, they have each helped to improve my constituents' quality of life. In recognition of their many accomplishments on behalf of my constituents, I offer my congratulations on their being honored by Brooklyn Pride.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PATIENT EMPOWERMENT ACT OF 1999

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 1999

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Patient Empowerment Act of 1999, the second in a series of Medicare modernization bills designed to improve program administration and the quality of health care for Medicare beneficiaries.

Mr. Speaker, Medicare beneficiaries currently have little or no control over their health care decisions. Instead of choosing the most appropriate course of treatment for their particular circumstance, some patients are being

told what they should do based on an oversupply of hospital resources or physician specialists in their area. Many diseases have several treatment options available. In most cases, there is no evidence to suggest that one course of treatment is better than another.

Dr. John Wennberg, one of the world's most renowned health policy researchers, talks about this issue in the 1998 Dartmouth Atlas: "The greater the per capita supply of hospital resources, the greater will be their per capita use, and the greater the per capita expenditures." The Atlas provides overwhelming statistical proof that in the economics of health care, supply often drives demand.

Dr. Wennberg estimates that if Medicare spending for all hospital referral regions with higher rates were brought down to the level of spending in the Minneapolis region (considered a very high quality of care region), Medicare's financial problems would be solved.

Many costly hospital stays could be averted entirely if Medicare beneficiaries were fully informed about their treatment alternatives. Not surprisingly, when presented with the range of available options, patients will often choose less invasive treatments.

For example, treatment of benign prostatic hyperplasia, a common condition affecting the majority of men over the age of 65, ranges from surgical removal to watchful waiting. Each of the options raises a number of trade-offs: while surgery is the most effective way to deal with symptoms, undergoing surgery presents certain risks. In Wennberg's analysis, most men with mild symptoms choose watchful waiting when educated about the full range of options, and watchful waiting is clearly the least expensive of all the options.

Patients have long deferred their medical decisions to their physicians. But medical care is becoming increasingly complex, and improvements in health technology have led to a multitude of available treatments. The treatment they choose should reflect the personal values and lifestyles of the patient and their family.

Therefore, I am introducing a demonstration bill to give patients more power over their health decisions. The findings from these demonstrations could lead to ways to greatly reduce the cost of the Medicare program, without jeopardizing health outcomes. I strongly urge members to support this legislation.

EDUCATION FLEXIBILITY PARTNERSHIP ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I support the concept of flexibility in the way that our federal education programs are implemented at the state and local level. Local Educational Agencies and individual schools need flexibility to ensure that our programs are conducted in a manner that is responsive and relevant to local conditions and the divergent needs of all students. However, educational flexibility needs to be viewed in its proper context—specifically in terms of the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. In this context the Conference Report on H.R.